

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force its affiliates to air a controversial "documentary" later this month that focuses on Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry's opposition to the Vietnam war is deplorable. I have written some affiliates to voice my concern, and WYZZ TV Fox 43 responded stating that the program is a "special news event featuring the topic of Americans held as prisoners of war in Vietnam". Who do they think they're kidding by calling this news! They go on to state that; "Characterizations regarding the content are premature and based on ill-informed sources. Massachusetts Senator John Kerry has been invited to participate." I sent these follow-up questions and have not yet heard back: 1) Have John Kerry or his party affiliates been offered equal time to air a message of their choosing, in a format they select? and 2) Is it true that affiliates of the Sinclair Broadcast Group are being required to air this commercial free program? If answers to these questions are "NO" and "YES" respectively, which I suspect they are, I respectfully submit to you that this violates rules of the broadcast airways to provide equal time to opposing views and political parties.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest, however, when large companies control the airwaves we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Americans need more substantive news about issues that matter. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them.

Shame on the Sinclair Broadcasting Group for their biased actions. If this program is allowed to air unchallenged and without interference by the democratic institutions meant to protect and serve the public good, then shame on the Federal Communications Commission too! Please reaffirm my faith in our democracy by taking the appropriate action.

Sincerely,  
George Doxas